



Project Objectives

- To develop a profitable high-output grass-based spring milk production system
- To incorporate the most recent advances in grassland management for dairy farms into a high- output system
- Use a type of dairy cow that has good genetic indices for both milk production and fertility
- Employ the best practices from nutrition research and dairy cow husbandry
- Incorporate nutritional studies into a high-output system
- To incorporate management technologies and system attributes that enhance the sustainability of dairy production



For more details on the High Output Systems Research Herd visit <https://www.ucd.ie/agfood/about/lyonsresearchfarm/lyonsdairyherd/>

Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes Week 24/02/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	17.43	Ha
Current SR (MP)	2.33	LU/ha
Farm Cover	985	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	423	Kg DM/day
Growth Rate	8	kg DM/ha
Demand	21	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	8	kg/day
Average DIM	19	days
Grass DM	15	%

Cow Details:

YIELD	27.31	kg/cow/day
Fat	4.81	%
Protein	3.33	%
MS	2.44	kg
SCC	36	Cells/ml milk
Cows Calved	41/56	

Grazing plan:

The AFC is now 985kg with growth rates of 8kg. Grazing resumed on the 6th of February with an opening cover of 1078kg, with 25 cows going out initially and 37 currently grazing. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted weekly. The current diet consists of a grass allocation of 9kg DM, 8kg DM (27% DM) silage and 8kg of concentrates. Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 17th of February and the 23rd of February, 27.15mm of rain fell and the average soil temperature on the platform was 5.8°C.

Calving:

Calving started on the 15th of January and there is currently 41/56 of the cows calved as of the 26th of February. Of this 41, 13 are heifers.



Comments:

33 cows were BCS on the 19th of February. 18% scored 2.75, 42% scored 3.0, 36% scored 3.25 and 3% scored 3.5.